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Our Docket No.: 0058002.P018X

#15  
4/25/02  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

**Richard A. Metzler**

Examiner: Unassigned

Application No.: 09/982,855

Art Group: 2814

Filed: October 22, 2001

For: **SIDEWALLS AS SEMICONDUCTOR  
ETCH STOP AND DIFFUSION  
BARRIER**

RECEIVED  
MAR 19 2002  
TC 2800 MAIL ROOM

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicants in accordance with their duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56 and in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(c)(2), submit the enclosed PTO-1449 Forms. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(d), copies of the patents, publications and other information listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 are not included herewith. Copies of these references can be found in prior U.S. Patent Applications upon which this application claims the benefit thereof.

Pursuant to 35 USC 120, the above referenced U.S. Patent Application claims the benefit of and is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 09/712,449, filed November 13, 2000.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97, the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation

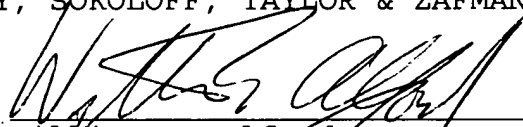
that a search has been made and is not to be construed as an admission that the information cited in this statement is material to patentability.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to a first office action or notice of allowance. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(b), no fee is required for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Applicant respectfully requests that the cited documents be considered and that the enclosed PTO-1449 forms be initialed by the Examiner to indicate such consideration and a copy thereof be returned to Applicant.

Respectfully submitted  
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

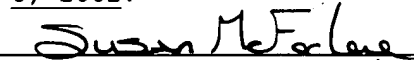
Dated: March 6, 2002

  
William E. Alford  
Registration No. 37,764

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

12400 Wilshire Boulevard,  
Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90025  
(714) 557-3800

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on: March 6, 2002.

  
Susan McFarlane  
Date 3/6/2002